



DRAFT

GCSE

BIBLICAL HEBREW

An introduction to the original language providing linguistic knowledge of Biblical Hebrew.

Our GCSE specification focuses on Biblical Hebrew as a language and on its literature with elements of the culture and history.



What's happening to GCSEs?

OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009*.

We've taken this opportunity to improve the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and learners alike.

We've made improvements in three key areas: updated and relevant content, a focus on developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills, and flexible assessment, so teachers can choose the best learning approach for the job.

We want to make the introduction of these new GCSEs as easy for you to manage as possible.

The main changes are:

- Controlled assessment will be introduced for most subjects
- The opportunity will be taken to bring course content up to date
- Examinations should provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Our approach is to provide consistency across all our GCSEs by offering the flexibility that unitised qualifications bring, allowing teaching and assessment in either a linear or unitised fashion.

*Not all GCSEs are changing. There are a few exceptions: the new Science GCSE was introduced in 2006. New English, English Literature, ICT and Maths GCSEs will be offered for first teaching in 2010.



Improving GCSE Biblical Hebrew with OCR

We've involved teachers throughout the development process, so the new specifications, support materials and schemes of work should be exactly what you need to teach OCR GCSE Biblical Hebrew. To ensure accuracy in our content, we've also consulted subject associations, professional membership groups, subject societies and other subject experts.

Our GCSE Biblical Hebrew offers:

- The only specification in the market
- A strong focus on linguistic, historical and cultural elements.



Making change easy

We'd like to make these changes as easy for you to manage as possible. To minimise disruption, we will:

- Guide you through the process of moving to OCR
- Bring you the latest information through our Focus on 14–19 magazine and our new website www.GCSEchanges.com
- Show you approved specifications one year ahead of first teaching, so you have plenty of preparation time
- Offer you a range of OCR support materials, including schemes of work and sample assessment materials, as we did with GCEs
- Make OCR's publisher partner resources – tailored to the new specifications – available from January 2009
- Endorse a variety of published resources, giving you a wider choice of quality support materials.

We're also running extra INSET and training courses across the UK, so now it's even easier to discover how OCR has developed its specifications.

Controlled assessment

While reviewing GCSEs, QCA looked into the coursework element of the current qualifications and decided to introduce controlled assessment as an alternative to coursework. This will address some of the issues raised in recent coursework reviews, such as plagiarism.

Controlled assessment has to be done in a supervised environment. However, if the task has a research element, the student may complete this without supervision.

The benefits of controlled assessment include:

- More straightforward marking – for most subjects, we provide worksheets for students to complete
- Improved reliability and validity
- Varying levels of control, to help you manage the assessments and your time more easily
- Greater confidence in authenticating students' work as their own
- Greater ease in fitting assessments into your normal teaching programmes.

We will review our controlled assessment tasks every two years.

Controlled assessment is not part of the GCSE Biblical Hebrew specification.



Flexible assessment

The assessment for the new OCR GCSEs is organised into units which can either all be taken at the end of the course in a linear fashion, or be used to complement a more unitised approach to teaching and learning. This gives you the flexibility to choose the assessment approach best suited to your centre and your students. A unitised structure gives you the flexibility to co-teach short and full courses.

We already offer assessments that are organised into units at A Level and for some existing GCSEs. For many subjects, assessments will be available twice a year. Flexible assessment means:

- You will have a choice of learning approaches – linear or unitised
- The assessment can be timed to match the point of learning within the course, making it easier for candidates to show what they know, understand and can do
- Students can re-sit a unit rather than repeat the entire assessment
- Some students are motivated by ongoing feedback and this helps them identify their learning needs
- A unitised approach makes it easier for students to stay on track with their studies and manage their time effectively
- The pressure of an 'all or nothing' assessment is removed
- Examination stress is reduced by permitting assessment over a longer period so that not all assessments are concentrated in a narrow window at the end of two years

- With a similar format to A Levels and Diplomas, GCSEs will help prepare students for the next phase of their education.

To ensure that the assessment supports the coherence of the GCSEs and there is no over-assessment, QCA has put two rules in place: 40% of the assessment must happen at the end of the course and only one re-sit of each assessment unit is allowed.

You may know 'unitised' as modular.

Unit title and description	Assessment including duration	Weighting
A201: Language <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Translate two unprepared passages of prose from Biblical Hebrew into English• Respond to comprehension questions, requiring explanation of the literary, contextual and grammatical features of the passage.	Written examination 2 hours	50%
A202: Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Translate in part a passage from the set texts• Explain the context and discuss the literary features of the passage.	Written examination 2 hours	50%

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Biblical Hebrew.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

AO1

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the language.

AO2

- Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation of literature and/or other sources related to society and values of the biblical world through analysis, evaluation and response.



What changes, and what stays the same?

	What changes?	What stays the same?
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specification is now unitised.	
Content		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remains the same.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duration of the written examinations has been reduced to 2 hours.	

Support for GCSE Biblical Hebrew teachers

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specifications and to support you while teaching them.

Our support materials and events include face-to-face training courses, schemes of work that you can customise, endorsed publisher partner resources, access to teacher and examiner networks (both online and offline), plus an extensive past-papers service.

OCR's online resources include:

- E-communities – online networks of subject specialists for sharing knowledge, views and ideas
- Interchange – a completely free and secure website that helps you carry out the administrative tasks associated with examinations quickly and easily
- Past examination papers
- Marking schemes
- Subject e-alerts – for teachers who register for updates.

We offer a wide range of training courses in the UK, so you have easy access to information about our new specifications – direct from the experts. See over for more details.



Training for OCR GCSE Biblical Hebrew

OCR is holding a series of national conferences to help prepare you for first teaching of the new GCSEs from 2009.

These free events will focus on GCSE changes with presentations and interactive workshops from subject specialists and our partner organisations. There will also be an opportunity to receive updates on the latest A Level, Diploma, functional skills and OCR Nationals developments.

Book your place now at www.GCSEchanges.com.

Please note:

- Free OCR Training courses will not incur any penalty fees however, so that we can offer your place to another delegate please notify us in good time of your course cancellation.
- Dates are subject to change so please ensure you read your booking confirmation and web updates as OCR Training cannot be held responsible for delegates who attend on an incorrect date.
- Courses throughout summer 2008 and autumn 2008 terms may be based on the draft specification.
- *The times of these courses may vary from the standard advertised time.

Publishing support for GCSE Biblical Hebrew teachers

To find the latest information on published resources, please visit www.ocr.org.uk/biblicalhebrew/newgcse and choose published resources from the right-hand menu.

Date	Location	Course code
Tues 24 Jun 08 AM	Newcastle	OEXP101
Tues 24 Jun 08 PM	Newcastle	OEXP102
Fri 27 Jun 08 AM	Manchester	OEXP103
Fri 27 Jun 08 PM	Manchester	OEXP104
Tues 1 Jul 08 AM	Coventry	OEXP105
Tues 1 Jul 08 PM	Coventry	OEXP106
Fri 4 Jul 08 AM	London	OEXP107
Fri 4 Jul 08 PM	London	OEXP108



www.ocr.org.uk

OCR customer contact centre

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